



Barricade Bulletin

For Class Struggle Anarchism

Irish Anarchist Bi-Monthly APRIL/MAY '21 No.13 FREE!



**KRONSTADT UPRISING & BLACK FLAG
PARIS COMMUNE * PRISONER SUPPORT
TALKING ANARCHY * STRIKE NEWS
BOOK REVIEW & MUCH MORE !**

BARRICADE BULLETIN

A big welcome to the 13th issue of Barricade Bulletin, bringing you all the news and information from anarchists in Derry and those anarchists internationally who we extend our solidarity with.

In spite of the ongoing pandemic, we continue to organise, unionise and play an active role in building both within our workplaces and communities. This month we intend to continue with 'Conversations on Anarchism' but this time it will take place online as part of networking with other likeminded anarchists but also to help the ongoing processing of developing and educating ourselves and those of us new to anarchism.

Barricade Bulletin is a free bi-monthly news bulletin issued to help generate anarchist information, interest and knowledge of class struggle anarchism to an increasingly wider audience. Barricade Bulletin takes its name from the radical community news sheet printed and distributed during the period of Free Derry.

If you would like to get involved with anarchists locally, take part in anarchist activity, discussions and conversations, prisoner support or contribute to Barricade Bulletin, then drop us a line to our email listed below:

Derry Anarchist Collective
derryanarchists@gmail.com
facebook.com/derry.anarchists
derryanarchists.blogspot.com

If there are no anarchist groups active close to where you live or work then think about creating one and let us know so we can advertise it or help out.

Anarchist Black Cross
abcireland.wordpress.com

Derry Radical Bookfair
derryradicalbookfair.wordpress.com

Derry Antifascists
facebook.com/DerryAntiFascists

Justice for the Craigavon Two
www.jftc2.ie

Migrants & Ethnic-minorities for Reproductive Justice
www.merjireland.org/

Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee Ireland
www.onebigunion.ie/iwocireland

Industrial Workers of the World
P.O. Box 346, Derry, BT48 4FZ, Ireland

ireland@iww.org.uk
onebigunion.ie

STRIKE ACTION

Solidarity with Debenhams Workers

The Industrial Workers of the World once again extended its solidarity with strikers who were forcibly removed from the pickets of their former store in Blanchardstown. Nearly a year on the picket lines and striking workers are being subjected to physical removal at the hands of the state and the private companies they protect.

Gardaí manhandled former Debenhams workers and solidarity activists from the site shortly before 5:00am to facilitate KPMG liquidators in their removal of stock from the premises. While workers up and down the country have remained within the Level 5 restrictions, scab lorry-drivers have been facilitated by Gardaí in 'non-essential economic activity'.

'Stand With Debenhams Workers' social media site have put out a call to join former workers for a socially distant picket outside each of the stores marking the first anniversary of their struggle.

Solidarity with Education Workers!

Education workers at a number of further education colleges across the north as they began industrial action over pay and conditions at six local colleges.

Over the past number of weeks education workers representatives belonging to the University and College Union (UCU) reported that the Northern Ireland Executive at Stormont failed to increase college funding throughout the six counties which would have allowed bosses at further education colleges to implement badly needed pay increases to staff equally.

As online strike action began, a representative of the IWW expressed its solidarity with education workers stating: "Stormont Ministers know full well what is demanded by education workers as the issue of increased funding for further education colleges has been raised time and time again, which again has fallen on deaf ears." Over the next number of weeks education workers have pledged themselves to further rolling industrial action from only working to contracted hours, refusing overtime and boycotting additional duties.

Source & Further information:
www.onebigunion.ie

Who Do They Think They're Kidding?

Workers will create our own victories on the picketlines & on the Streets!

You would be forgiving it was April Fools Day when witnessing social media going into free-fall following the recent Derry City and Strabane District Council meeting of the 'Governance and Strategic Planning Committee' as local councillors voted NOT to give themselves a pay rise.

Was it a well intentioned gesture of concern by our political leaders and the parties they represent at a time of increasing economic hardship in working class communities or a mealy mouthed token to distract attention away from their own failures? Many rightly believe it is the later.

Just Resting In My Account

The motion was put forward not by the self-styled 'radicals' within the Derry City and Strabane District Council but by the nationalist Sinn Fein councillor who said "It just feels wrong at this current time in this current climate for us to be sitting awarding ourselves an increase in allowances".

The understatement of the year coming from a representative of one of the wealthiest political party's in the country, who themselves have been buried in financial controversy since the last series of elections, resulting in reshuffles and members swapping seats.

Revolution NOT Reform

Local government and council chambers is nothing more than a quagmire of red tape rubber stamping local planning and bin collections for a few extra columns in the local rags.

For decades we have been lied to "We fought for the right to vote", "Use your vote other wise the OTHER will get the seat", "There's non need to protest and march when we have a local councillor to work on our behalf" yet our class continues to accept attack after a attack from that very same system which they are administering to kick us in line.

For the Many Not the Few

This is by no means a cheap crack at *would-be* politicians and others by anarchists just because of a cringe-worthy attempt by local politicians to look as if they are "by and for the people" at a time of crisis and hardship for workers and working class communities, far from it.

When it comes up in front of the next Governance and Strategic Planning Committee will they openly accept it then or kick it down the road for another day to once again legitimise their positions? Or quietly push it through with backdated increases to bring themselves in line with other councils?

One thing is for sure we'll not hold our breath while the rest of our class maintain the picket lines and life on Universal Credit.

For anarchists, there is no parliamentary road to the liberation of all our class, be it in their local, regional or national councils or assemblies protecting and legitimising that same system which is oppressing our class.

For anarchists, it is that reformist route that disempowers workplace, community and street politics of our class in which the many has their voice removed in favour of the voice of the few.

Profit Before People

Our class solidarity comes directly from our anarchist principles to further our aims of mutual aid, solidarity and direct action. As anarchists we believe that NO-ONE should get paid into defending the interests of the working class. Those individuals, groups and organisations who seek paid positions to represent our class ultimately represent no-one but their own selfish interests and egos. For those who still believe that there is a possibility or some potential in the reformist politics of capitalist institutions local or otherwise, think again. They are kidding no one!



Ruymán Libertad!



The trial that was to be held on March 24th in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias against the anarchist union organiser Ruymán Rodríguez, accused by the Civil Guard (Spanish military branch of the police) of an alleged crime of "attack on authority" was finally postponed, at the request of three cops.

In 2015, Ruymán was abducted by the police and tortured for hours. When Ruymán threatened to tell his lawyers and take them to court for illegal detention and torture, one of the cops claimed he had been kicked in the leg by Ruymán.

The police demand now that the case against them must be held at the Audiencia Provincial (the higher court in the region), under the claim that as police officers, they have a right to a special trial. They are also hoping to get some extra time and let things cool down. The Guardia Civil were not expecting the huge solidarity that the case of Ruymán has received. The trial will eventually go on and if Ruymán was to be found guilty he would be facing an 18 month prison sentence.

Ruymán has been involved with both FAGC (Anarchist Federation of Gran Canaria) and the Tenants Union for years. Back at the time of his abduction, the libertarian activist already denounced that his arrest was part of "a police

campaign to destabilize the occupation project known as La Esperanza Community", of which he himself had been one of the main promoters.

La Esperanza (Spanish for Hope) is today the largest housing self-managed project in the Spanish State, with more than 200 relocated people.

Currently, there are already 10 self-managed housing communities in Gran Canaria, with 1,000 people living in recovered homes. These are houses that, in all cases, have been abandoned for more than two years, and are owned by banks and vulture funds. The Tenants Union, with the support of FAGC, have found homes for families with no other alternative housing, migrants in a situation of police persecution or women victims of violence who are not receiving the necessary support from the state.

Ruymán has been selected once again to send a warning to the rest of the community and to protect the financial interests of banks and corporations. The Tenants Union has no leaders, but this is something that seems to escape the understanding of the police. We call for solidarity with Ruymán Rodríguez, union organiser, repressed, tortured and prosecuted by the Spanish state for housing the dispossessed.

#KilltheBill

The **Derry Anarchist Collective** stands in solidarity with our comrades in Bristol and other cities in their continued resistance to the Police Bill.

Fundraising to support Bristol defendants

Fundraiser to support people who have been arrested in connection with the protests in Bristol recently. Money to be used for court fees, travel fees to court, legal cases against the police, and personal support if necessary.

By **Bristol Defendant Solidarity** - they have supported IWW members before, financially and by showing up to things in person, so any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Link here - <https://t.co/jL5RqFwL8v>

THE BARCELONA 8

ANARCHISTS INTERNED



Spanish rapper Pablo Hasel -who barricaded himself inside the University of Lleida, defying a court order for his arrest- was finally kidnapped by Catalan police on 16th February 2021 and jailed on a nine-month sentence for "insulting the Spanish monarchy, insulting the Spanish army and police forces, and praising terrorism and banned groups" both in his statements on social media and the lyrics of his songs.

Almost two hours after officers from the Catalan police force went in early on Tuesday, Hasel was led away shouting "they will never silence us; death to the fascist state".

Dozens of supporters had earlier built a barricade at the university in Lérida (Lleida in Catalan), 150km (90 miles) west of Barcelona. Pictures from the scene showed activists spraying fire extinguishers at police before he was arrested in the university rector's building.

On Tuesday night protests broke out in cities across Spain. In Barcelona thousands gathered, waving placards reading "Free Pablo" before the protests turned ugly as police charged and demonstrators set barricades and rubbish bins on fire to protect themselves from the foam projectiles used by BRIMO (Catalonia's infamous riot police).

After 12 days of demonstrations and riots, the state authorities were overwhelmed by the resistance and huge display of solidarity and decided enough was enough. We should also mention that Catalan police image has recently plummeted

even further after they blinded a woman when she was shot in the face with a foam projectile, during the Pablo Hasel solidarity demos.

On February 27, police had decided to end all this by arresting 8 activists and accused them of belonging to an "organised criminal organisation", attempted murder and public disorder. Not only they have been made responsible for setting a police van on fire, the evidence supplied being the fact that they all "use the same type of cigarette lighter", but have also been selected by the state and the press as the leaders of the riots. The 5 men and 3 women happen to be involved in different anarchist community and cultural centres in Catalonia, such as El Lokal in Barcelona and other groups in Canet de Mar and Mataro. Obviously the cops and the media made it also very clear that the majority were Italian, in



an attempt to criminalise them because of their nationality. They would have been already known to the Catalan police as infiltration and surveillance of libertarian and community-led spaces is a regular occurrence. The press has since published their names and faces and consistently pointed out their anarchist political background. Prison without bail awaiting trial. No real evidence, no real connection to the events, but already sentenced by the police and the media.

It is sickening -but perhaps not surprising- that the state is still using the same techniques to destroy the mobilisation on the streets as in the case of the Haymarket martyrs, 135 years ago now... just to name one example of many. Anarchists are the perfect scapegoat, since we do not have much support from institutions or political parties. No politician is going to risk losing the precious vote by openly supporting a group of anarchists... So anarchists naturally don't have many friends in positions of power, and can

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Kronstadt Revolution

We Will Never forget: Remember the Kronstadt uprising a century on 1921-2021



Kronstadt Sailors March 1921: "All power to the councils (soviets) - no power to the party!"

"Everywhere that the Communist dictatorship has been established, a new slavery has been created. The peasant has been transformed into a serf, the worker has become a mere employee in the state factories.

"Those who protests are thrown in to the jails of the Checka [secret police]. And those who still dare to rebel are simply shot. The whole of Russia has been turned into a concentration camp". (IZVESTIYA, newspaper of the Kronstadt workers).

The events of March 1921 in the naval base of Kronstadt, near Petrograd, marked the end of the Russian revolution. Recognising that the Bolshevik party had hijacked the revolution and created a dictatorship ruled by one party and its leader Lenin, the Kronstadt sailors set up a free soviet (workers council) and

called upon the people to create a "third revolution" (after the revolutions of 1905 and October 1917).

For the Kronstadt sailors, the new society should be one of free associations of workers without the slightest interference from political parties or any other external authority.

Control of the land and the means of production and distribution of resources would be in the hands of the workers themselves.

The Kronstadt sailors, many of them anarchists and rank-and-file communists, were not the first to denounce betrayal of the revolution.

In 1918, the First All-Russian Conference of Anarcho-Syndicalists at Moscow accused the Bolshevik government with its suppression of workers' control of destroying industrial democracy and creating the monster of state capitalism.

By 1920, Lenin was already declaring in public the "necessity of recognising the dictatorial authority of single individuals for the purpose of carrying out the Soviet idea". Indeed, a very convenient necessity for himself in the first place. A series of strikes had already broken out in February 1921 in Petrograd, spreading to other major industrial cities.

These strikes were crushed by Lenin with arrests of anarchists and socialists, lock-outs and armed suppression of workers demonstrations.

On the first of March, some 15,000 workers, sailors and soldiers stationed at Kronstadt held a mass meeting where a resolution demanding freedom and workers' control was approved. Shortly after the meeting, the Bolshevik authorities tried to remove food and ammunition supplies from the base, but the sailors prevented this by shutting down the city and arresting the commissars in charge. Lenin's reply was to send Leon Trotsky to crush the uprising.

On the 7th of March, Trotsky, as commander of the Red Army, ordered the artillery to open fire on Kronstadt. Days before, the sailors had had their families arrested as hostages.

On the 16th of March, Trotsky ordered an assault of 50,000 troops against a garrison of about 15,000. Despite their fierce resistance, the sailors of Kronstadt fell to the Bolsheviks on the 18th of March.



Finland: Some of the sailors escaped fallen Kronstadt across the frozen ice



Sailors from the Kronstadt garrison before the uprising in March 1921

Some 8,000 sailors managed to escape across the ice into Finland, some 2,500 were captured and many ended up tortured and sent to concentration camps in remote parts of Russia, or simply executed without a public trial ever taking place. The exact numbers are still unknown.

The last free soviet and with it the last chance for the Russian working class to carry out a libertarian revolution was brutally crushed.

The Kronstadt rebellion has indeed parallels with the crushing of the Paris Commune, the Makhnovists, Asturias 1934, or the May Days in revolutionary Barcelona.

Power passed from the hands of the workers into the hands of the government and the revolution was ended.

Perhaps the lessons from Kronstadt are best captured by a leaflet distributed by Petrograd anarchists during the rebellion: ***"Your first task is to destroy government. Your second task is not to create any other"***.

It is a lesson that comes from the realisation that there are many ways to be on the side of the powerful, but only one way of being radical.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM!

Further reading on the Kronstadt Revolution:
Kronstadt 1921 by Paul Avrich
The Kronstadt Uprising - Ida Mett. Introduction by Murray Bookchin

Vive la Commune

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the Paris Commune

It was an event of crucial importance and its legacy is commemorated by those involved in radical politics the world over, as being an early example of collective democratic government by workers and citizens.

The events that we call the Paris commune took place between the months of March and May in 1871. It occurred as the Third Republic of France signed an Armistice with the Prussians after the Prussians laid siege to Paris the previous winter. This siege ended with the surrender of the French forces.

Paris at this time was a hotbed of radical thought and was populated with up to half a million industrial workers, who felt oppressed by the ruling regime and the emerging and increasingly powerful capitalist system. Even before the armistice many of these workers demonstrated for a democratically elected government for the city. Many of these workers were also part of a militia of volunteer soldiers called the national Guard, who protected the city during the siege.

There was a palpable fear at this time that the Armistice could lead to a return to monarchy. This led to an eruption of fighting between the members of the Parisian National Guard and the Army of the Third republic for control of the city. After weeks of fierce fighting the National Guard took control of the city on March 18 1871, by seizing key buildings and armaments.

As the National Guard took control work began to establish a Central Organising Committee which would organise a democratically elected government of and by the people. An initial sixty councillors were elected. These councillors were workers, businesspeople, journalists, and scholars. The council did not endorse a single leader, and instead worked to make decisions directly and by consensus. This council of sixty became the communards.

The communards set out policies and practices

along the lines of what a democratic socialist government would look like. Power hierarchies were challenged and equality between the previous different classes in Paris was established. Other policies included the abolishment of the death penalty and military conscription, the ending of night work and the establishment of pensions for families who died defending the city. Interests on debts were wiped out and workers were permitted to take over abandoned businesses.

One of the notable examples of the radical thinking of the Commune was the active separation of the church and state, with all church properties being returned to the people for common use.

One of the criticisms from an Anarchist perspective was that the commune did not go far enough. While it became autonomous from the rest of France it did not abolish the state structures, expropriate capital or abolish wage slavery.

Like all radical experiments the Commune was subject to vicious attacks throughout its short existence. Third Republic troops infiltrated and attacked the commune constantly over the two months of its existence. This culminated in the brutal attack on the commune on 21st May. Members of the Commune and National Guard fought back and tried to defend their city.

Unfortunately, they were outnumbered and outgunned by the Third Republic troops. During this attack up to twenty Thousand workers and citizens, men women and children were brutally killed. Many thousands more were taken prisoner and later executed. The radical Paris Commune Ended as the Third Republic regained control of the city. As Malatesta wrote "it was suffocated in blood".

The ruling class have worked to distort the legacy of the commune. However, while the commune was ended, the ideas of the commune have lived on and are with us today. The commune had a direct impact on the 1916 Irish rebellion, The Spanish Revolution and exists today in Rojava and in Chiapas.

Talking Anarchy

Louise Michel

Talking Anarchy is part of our ongoing educational work in which each issue will touch on areas of anarchism, prominent figures as well as historical events.

Louise Michel- 150 years since the Commune
As we remember the Paris Commune 150 years on, we should remember the many anarchists who fought to defend the Commune, one of which, was Louise Michel.

Born May 29, 1830, in Vroncourt-la-Côte, moving to Paris in 1856, becoming a teacher in the city of lights, setting up her own school in 1865, she became involved in Leftist politics around the same time.

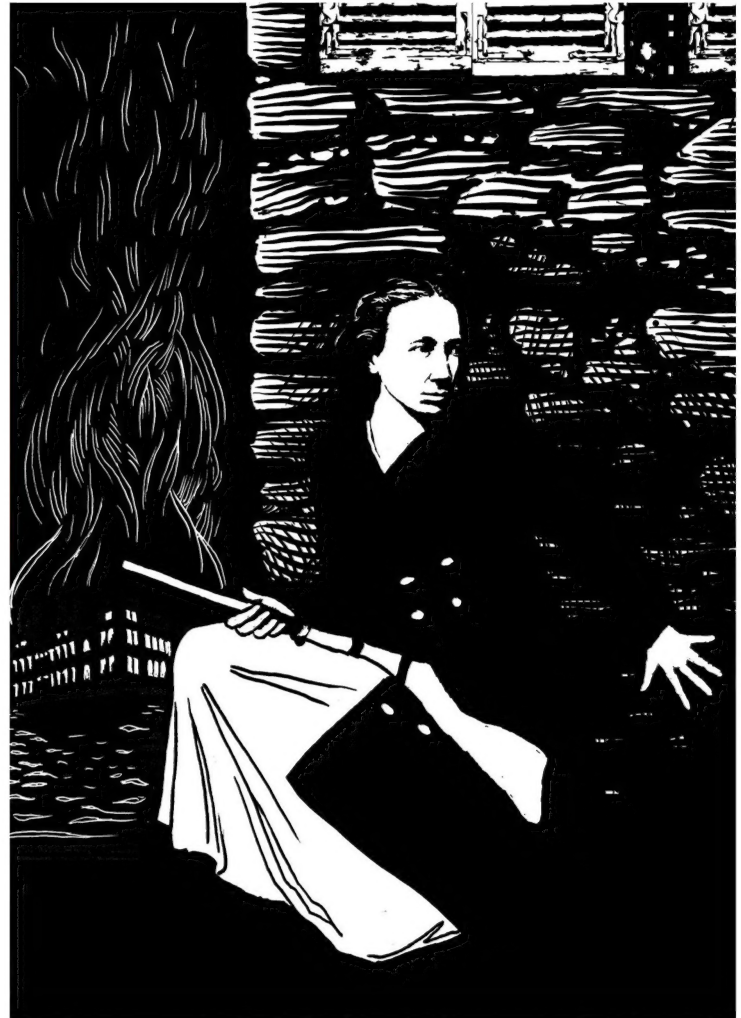
She joined the national guard at the start of the up-rising firing a rifle shot into the air outside the Paris Town House, she set up another school to teach draftsmanship, modelling and wood carving to girls, her feminism, anarchism, and her role as a teacher greatly affected her time in the commune.

On May 24 Louise Michel learned that her mother had been captured by the Versaillais troops. So she arranged to be taken prisoner in exchange for her mother's release. She was sentenced to be deported and in August 1873 was shipped off to the penal colony on New Caledonia in the South-West Pacific.

While in New Caledonia, she openly supported the anti-imperialist, indigenous revolt, called the "great revolt of 1878", sadly, the revolt, like the Commune, was put down by the French, killing 1,000 indigenous New Caledonians.

She returned to Paris on 9 November 1880 after the general amnesty for the Communards. 6,000 supporters came to meet her and the other 550 Communards who were freed and shipped home.

One of her greatest legacies has to be the use of the black flag of anarchy, one of the earliest to use it in the history of the symbol.



Being repeatedly jailed for being part of riots and protests, she was truly a symbol unto herself, a 19th century inspiration to 21st century Anarchists and Feminists. A woman who went from a Teacher, to a revolutionary, fighting for her city and her Commune.

She sadly passed away on the 9 January 1905 in Marseille, with 120,00 people at her funeral. She may not be remembered by the general population, but she, and the Paris Commune, will forever be remembered by the Anarchist movement.

Books on Louise Michel:

The following books are on Louise Michel related works.

Free Women Of Spain: Anarchism and the Struggle for the Emancipation of Women

Quiet Rumours: An Anarcha-Feminist Reader

Refusing to Wait: Anarchism & Intersectionality

*Demanding the Impossible:
A History of Anarchism*

Philippines: Uptight Rebels

Solidairty message from Anarcho Punx Cebu City, Philippines

Uptight Rebels Collective was originally formed by a group of anarcho-punks that lived on the streets of downtown Cebu City. Although a small collective and having to keep a low profile to avoid exposing themselves, they are extremely passionate and not afraid to get their hands dirty.



Here is their introduction to comrades in Ireland, in their own words:

"Greetings! We are the Uptight Rebels Collective from Cebu City, Philippines. A young collective and with no experience, all we have is the desire to learn and the heart to teach. Anarchism for us is love, change and direct action. We want to do something that the community can benefit from, in our own simple ways. As a collective, we tackle every problem together, we identify the needs behind the need and, in our own simple idea, formulate a program to help our community.

"We believe information and ideas about Anarchism are vital for them to understand, as it was a subject of "taboo" or few have known.

"Our program is simple, realistic and achievable. We do outreach feeding programs providing vegetarian food for children and their mothers. We encourage them to participate, giving them low cost vegetarian recipes that can be prepared on their own table, and we give them

a leaflet with the recipes and information about Anarchism and how it can help them:

"What is Anarchism all about? We believe, as a newbie or a young collective, and to our community that haven't heard about Anarchism, it is a start. We also give masks to those that haven't had the luxury of getting one and coloring books and pencils for the children, and ask them to write about what do they want to do for the community. What we see in their simple ways is amazing and good, which leads us to do more to empower them. We never desire to give them fish but to teach them how to get it. As a collective we make sure that each and every single member has a duty or task to do and at the end of the day we ask ourselves: have we given our best?"

"We also realize that we need mentoring and aid to further our knowledge and make an impact on our community. We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts of love hope and freedom in a place we call jail in a jailed nation.

"On behalf of the Uptight Rebels Collective, solidarity to all. May love, freedom and hope be upon us. Mabuhay Ang Mga Anarkista!"

Anarchism is the radical belief that no one knows how to run your life better than you do. Many people seem to think that anarchists are proponents of violence, chaos, and destruction, that they are against all forms of order and organization. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Anarchists are simply people who believe human beings are capable of behaving in a reasonable fashion without having to be forced to. At the heart of anarchism is the idea of freedom—freedom from oppression, whether it be social, political or economic.



Society is organized in such a way to allow those with power—e.g. bosses and politicians—to exploit and needlessly oppress the working class for their own gain. We are completely capable of organizing ourselves without political coercion or economic oppression. Together, we can build a better world.

If you want to get in contact with URC, you can do so on facebook.com/UptightRebels



BOOK REVIEWS

Working Class History: *Everyday acts of resistance & rebellion*

We all have one of those must have books on our shelves to go to. Those books that are a wealth, a treasure-trove of detail and information in relation to the past and the recent publication of **'Working Class History: Everyday Acts of Resistance & Rebellion'** by **PM Press** has got to be up there as one of those must books.

As users of social media, be it on twitter or facebook, the daily posts from Working Class History are fantastic to receive for anarchists and history buffs alike. Many times we all have said that the work carried out by those working on the WCH project is vital for both historical and educational purposes.

In introducing this latest publication, PM Press wrote *'History is not made by kings, politicians, or a few rich individuals—it is made by all of us. From the temples of ancient Egypt to spacecraft orbiting Earth, workers and ordinary people everywhere have walked out, sat down, risen up, and fought back against exploitation, discrimination, colonization, and oppression'*.

Without doubt this book **'Working Class History: Everyday Acts of Resistance & Rebellion'** presents a distinct collection of working class history through hundreds of "on this day in histo-

WORKING EVERYDAY ACTS OF CLASS RESISTANCE & REBELLION HISTORY

EDITED BY

WORKING CLASS HISTORY

FOREWORD BY

NOAM CHOMSKY

ry" notes that acts as a brilliant go-to source for historical events and information with an equally important extensive list of references and further reading. This is an inspirational chronology and a must have book to add to any anarchist bookshelf with the foreword coming from non-other than legendary author and dissident Noam Chomsky. You can purchase **'Working Class History: Everyday Acts of Resistance & Rebellion'** directly from **PM Press** or as ever, you can request it from your local independent book-sellers.

Black Flag Anarchist Review



Peter
Kropotkin
(1842-1921)

The Kronstadt
Uprising
1st March 1921



The Paris
Commune
18th March 1871



And much more...

Spring 2021

Volume 1

Number 1

On the 50th anniversary after it first appeared, the class struggle periodical 'Black Flag' has been relaunched as an online journal. The creation of dedicated life long anarchists Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer will now have a new lease of life.

The latest online edition carries a great mixture of current and historical in line with previous issues. The editorial collective who have put together this latest issue stated that "Ultimately, Black Flag reflects those involved and willing to put in time and effort: if you want the mix to change, then get involved. If you want to contribute rather than moan at those who do, whether its writing new material or letting us know of on-line articles, reviews or translations), then contact us". You can do so at the following email: blackflagmag@yahoo.co.uk

GREECE: Police Violence Working Class Resistance

Greece is now suffering from brutal police violence. For almost the whole month of March, thousands of people have taken to the streets of Athens in response to a video that appeared to show a man being beaten by a cop in the Nea Smyrni district.

An ombudsman looking into the case said that complaints of police brutality and violence have been on the increase as people become more frustrated with restrictions on movement and economic activity, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

As police are granted more and more powers to repress any kind of public gathering, reports of police violence have been on the rise across European states.

On the 9th of March a big demonstration took place at Nea Smyrni. Police claim they attended the scene in response to reports of people flouting coronavirus restrictions. Athens is currently under a stay-at-home order with people only allowed to leave their homes for essential trips. The police resolved to disperse the demonstrators by firing tear gas and water cannons, and demonstrators defended themselves with stones and petrol bombs.



At least one cop was seriously injured. The next day the Greek police kidnapped two anarchist activists, Aris Papazacharoudakis and O.M.

They were blamed for the attack and taken to GADA, the Central Police Department in Athens. Both activists were held for two days and tortured by a gang of cops. Both of them will need financial assistance for the trials, lawyers and for the fight they give to the system. If you are able, please donate at: www.firefund.net/masovka

THE BARCELONA 8

Continues from Page 5

make us very vulnerable to the state. With these selected arrests, the police are sending a clear message to the rest of society. Who wants to go next?

21 days later, one of the Barcelona8, the woman directly accused of setting the van on fire, has been released. After being named, insulted and threatened both on the press and on social media, no real evidence has been found of her connection to the events. After viewing of the video footage, the court realised she is nowhere to be seen... She remains under charges for now, but the fact is that this is good news for the remaining comrades, as their solicitors have followed the same procedure and expect everyone

of them to be cleared of all charges. The case is to tumble down for the Catalan police. The whole thing is a big fat lie.

From the **Derry Anarchist Collective**, we demand the immediate release of all imprisoned comrades and an end to police harassment of anarchist spaces and individuals. Both Barcelona mayor Ada Colau and the Catalan government, as well as the media were screaming in unison against the horrible Italian anarchist terror group. One thing is for sure, they will not apologise.

We are facing a strong authoritarian drift of European governments that are taking the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse to repress any dissent and open the doors to dictatorship. We will not tolerate being imprisoned for our ideas. Freedom for the Barcelona 8!

Who We Are:

We are a class struggle anarchist collective, organised by and for working class people. As anarchists we are opposed to all states and institutions, and all attitudes and ideologies that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment. The working class has no country.

The class struggle is world wide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The Armies and Police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

Our Aim

Our aim is to abolish world wide, the state system, governments, capitalism and the wage slavery in all its forms and replace them with a free classless society based on self-managed communities and industries where production is for need not profit. In order to bring about an anarchist society the working class must take over the means of production and distribution, along with the day-to-day running of our communities.

What We Believe

As anarchists we believe that the only way for the working class to

achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and the community. In federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. Industrial and community federations must be controlled by the working class themselves and must unite rather than divide the working class.

Dividing the working class by skin colour, religion, sex, nationality, sexual preference etc. is one of the main ways that the ruling class keeps us fighting amongst ourselves instead of against them. In creating a free society we must combat and destroy these divisions which the ruling class fosters within the working class.

Get Involved

Derry Anarchist Collective exists in order to further our aim for the creation of a social system where the working class alone controls industry and the community, free from the dictates, rules and laws of politicians, bureaucrats and bosses. If you share the ideas contained in this statement then we urge you to get involved with us.

Governments don't fall down by themselves, they need your help.

You can write to us at:
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